

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: SOVIET ENERGY ON TARGET IN FIRST QUARTER, EXCEPT
COAL

SUMMARY: PROJECTING FROM FIRST QUARTER 1978 PERFORMANCE
OF THE SOVIET ENERGY SECTOR TO THE FULL YEAR INDICATES
THAT ELECTRICITY WILL BE JUST ABOUT ON TARGET, GAS WILL BE
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SLIGHTLY ABOVE TARGET, AND COAL WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY
BELOW TARGET AGAIN THIS YEAR. THE OIL TARGET IS IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE RANGE OF LIKELY OUTPUT. EXCEPT FOR COAL,
THEREFORE, THE PROSPECTS LOOK GOOD FOR FULFILLING THE 1978
ANNUAL ECONOMIC PLAN GOALS IN ENERGY. ALTHOUGH LOWER
THAN THE ORIGINAL FIVE-YEAR PLAN GOALS FOR THE YEAR, THE
NEW GOALS APPEAR ADEQUATE FOR THE LOWER GROWTH RATES NOW

PLANNED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 AND 1977 PRODUCED, RESPECTIVELY, 26.7 PERCENT OF EACH YEAR'S ELECTRICITY, 24.3 (1976) AND 23.7 (1977) PERCENT OF ITS OIL (INCLUDING GAS CONDENSATE), 25 PERCENT OF ITS GAS EACH YEAR, AND 25.4 (1976) AND 25.5 (1977) PERCENT OF ITS COAL.

2. IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS, THE SOVIET UNION PRODUCED 322 MILLION KILOWATT HOURS OF ELECTRICITY, 138 MILLION METRIC TONS OF OIL (INCLUDING GAS CONDENSATE), 93 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF GAS, AND 184.2 MILLION METRIC TONS OF COAL.

3. APPLYING THE FACTORS FROM PARAGRAPH ONE TO THE OUTPUTS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH TWO GIVES THE PROJECTIONS OF PRODUCTION FOR THE FULL YEAR SHOWN BELOW, WITH THE ANNUAL PLAN TARGET - SHOWN IN PARENTHESES.

(1) ELECTRICITY 1206 M KWH (1207)

(2) OIL (INCLUDING GAS CONDENSATE) 582-568 M MT (575)

(3) GAS 372 B CU. M (370)

(4) COAL 725-722 M MT (746)

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4. COMMENT. ON THE BASIS OF THE PROJECTIONS GAS AND ELECTRICITY LOOK ALL RIGHT. OIL APPEARS LIKELY TO MAKE TARGET, ALTHOUGH THE RECENT VISITS TO TYUMEN BY KOSYGIN AND BAYBAKOV AND THEN BY BREZHNEV COULD BE READ AS INDICATING SOME CONCERN ABOUT AS WELL AS INCREASED EMPHASIS UPON ENERGY PRODUCTION THERE. COAL LOOKS AS THOUGH IT IS REALLY HEADED FOR ANOTHER POOR YEAR, AND, TO THE EXTENT THAT ELECTRICITY OUTPUT DEPENDS ON COAL PRODUCTION, IT, TOO, MIGHT SUFFER. TOON

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